



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Joint Investigation to Combat Crack Distributors in Clinton County

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, joined by John P. Gilbride, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie; Major Richard C. Smith, Jr., New York State Police Troop B Commander; Chief of Police, Desmond Racicot, Patrol Agent in Charge Norman Lague, United States Border Patrol; Dave Favro, Clinton County Sheriff; and Captain Michael Branch, Plattsburgh Police Department announced that their collaborative efforts to combat crack distribution in Clinton County has resulted in the federal indictment of the following people:

Hector MORALES, age 32, of Troy, New York;
Anthony CORDERO, age 22, of Bronx, New York;
Nelson CORDERO, age 19, of Bronx, New York;
Reginald ALEXANDER, age 51, of Plattsburgh, New York; and
Jeanette TAYLOR, age 37, of Plattsburgh, New York.

MORALES, CORDERO, and CORDERO are charged with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute more than two hundred and eighty (280) grams of cocaine base (crack) in violation of federal law. If convicted, CORDERO and CORDERO face up to life in prison, a mandatory minimum of ten (10) years in prison and a \$10,000,000 fine. If convicted, MORALES faces up to life in prison, a mandatory minimum of twenty (20) years in prison and a \$20,000,000 fine.

In a separate indictment, ALEXANDER and TAYLOR are charged with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute more than two hundred and eighty (280) grams of cocaine base (crack) in violation of federal law. If convicted, ALEXANDER and TAYLOR face up to life in prison, a mandatory minimum of ten (10) years in prison and a \$10,000,000 fine.

The cases are the result of a joint federal and state investigation into crack distribution rings operating in Plattsburgh, New York and the surrounding areas.

DEA Special Agent in Charge John P. Gilbride stated, "These arrests prove law enforcement's determination to arrest those responsible for infiltrating our communities and distributing illegal drugs. The defendants attempted to evade law enforcement at all costs but today they are behind bars for their illicit drug distribution actions. DEA and our local, state and federal law enforcement partners are determined to make our border communities safe from drug traffickers and the perils associated." SAC Gilbride would like to thank all who assisted in this investigation and arrests.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Gardner of the United States Attorney's Office in Plattsburgh, New York. He can be reached at (518) 314-7800.

An Indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.